

Britain

Travellers braced for eviction after losing last-ditch court case

By Kevin Rawlinson

RESIDENTS of the UK's largest Travellers' site were braced for mass eviction last night after failing in their last-ditch attempt to save their homes at the High Court.

Lawyers acting on behalf of the community failed to win a temporary injunction preventing Basildon Borough Council from evicting the families from Dale Farm in Essex from midnight. The case hinged on the circumstances of 72-year-old Mary Flynn, who suffers breathing problems and uses an electric nebuliser.

The High Court in London dismissed the application but Basildon Borough Council gave a legal undertaking to review fresh medical evidence relating to Mrs Flynn before proceeding against her.

Mr Justice Kenneth Parker said that 2009 proceedings in the Court of Appeal relating to Dale Farm were of "crucial significance". That court concluded that the council's decision to enforce was entirely lawful. Yesterday, the judge rejected claims that a further step had to be taken enabling some individuals to have access to an independent tribunal. Refusing the injunction, he said the only aspect



Vanessa Redgrave arrives at the High Court to lend her support to the Dale Farm community fighting for survival

which gave him some concern was medical evidence of significant deterioration in Mrs Flynn's condition since the Court of Appeal decision.

Kathleen McCarthy, 48, a Dale Farm resident, said outside court: "What I understood by it is we've got seven days to hand in all the reports about all the sick people, and they're going to take another seven days reading it and looking at it.

"Well that's still 14 days for us. It's really a lot for us. To us, it is a lifetime.

We have nowhere else to go and people are dying"

The Travellers at Dale Farm own the site but do not have planning permission for some of the plots there. Demonstrators, among them the actress and campaigner Vanessa Redgrave, gathered outside the court to oppose the eviction.

Speaking after the judgment, Ms Redgrave was downbeat. "I cannot bear it," she said. "I am not attacking the judge but all I can see is that people's lives are going to pot everywhere, not just at Dale Farm. They are making out that Dale Farm residents are the villains but they are not; they are decent people. They will be forced to live by the side of the road if they are evicted."

Inside court, she was embraced by one of the residents who, sobbing, asked her: "What will become of my children?" Campaigners set up Camp Constant at Dale Farm over the weekend to support the Travellers' cause.

Time to calm the rhetoric and forge a compromise
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Nomads who've earned a home
John Walsh, *Viewspaper*, page 24



One of David Bowie's songs has been turned into an illustrated book by a Canadian artist

'Space Oddity' reimagined as children's book

By Rob Sharp
Arts Correspondent

DAVID BOWIE's 1969 song "Space Oddity", which sees fictional astronaut Major Tom drifting into outer space, has been turned into an unlikely children's book by a Canadian illustrator.

Andrew Kolb, from southern Ontario, has created an illustrated version of Bowie's classic track. "It was an entirely personal project," he said. "The song always played out like a picture book in my head anyway, so I wanted to see if I could make it work. It was for entirely selfish reasons."

Mr Kolb said the book had a purposefully ambiguous ending, not revealing whether Major Tom chose to leave Earth behind or was cut loose by an asteroid storm. As Tom drifts into space, the song ends with the lyrics: "Planet Earth is blue ... and there's nothing I can do."

The book is available for download via Mr Kolb's website, with the illustrator in discussions with HarperCollins for a print run.